

Studies on the Cerylonidae  
(Coleoptera, Clavicornia). Part II.  
Cerylonidae from the Mascarene,  
Seychelles and Comoro Islands

by

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With 10 figures

ABSTRACT

Two new genera, *As* gen. n., *Illerylon* gen. n., and the following new species are described: *As alae*, *Illerylon besucheti*, *I. mauritanum*, *Pathelus loebli*, *P. mauritanus*, *Philothermus gomyi*, *Philothermopsis addendus*, *Euxestus globosus gomyi*. *Philothermus curtulum* (Grouvelle) is transferred to the genus *Praslinia* Dajoz, and *P. peyrrierasi* Dajoz is relegated to synonymy. *Euxestus quadricolor* Emden is synonymized with *E. phalacroides* Wollaston. *Cerylon mauritanum* Grouvelle is transferred to *Philothermopsis*, subgenus *Pseudophilothermus*.

The present paper is based on material of the Natural History Museum in Geneva (MHNG), which I have received for study from Dr. Ivan Löbl. Most of the specimens have been collected by Mr. Yves Gomy whose efficient field methods enabled him to discover an almost unknown fauna. In addition material from the following institutions has been studied:

MRAC; Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium (Dr. Jean Decelle),  
SMD; Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, German Democratic Republic  
(Dr. M. Emmrich),

USNM; United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., USA, (Dr. John M. Kingsolver, Dr. Donald R. Davis),

SAS; Stanisław A. Ślipiński (author's own collection).

I am greatly indebted to all persons who helped me during this study.

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***Praslinia curtulum* (Grouv.), comb. n.**

*Cerylon curtulum* Grouvelle, 1918: 40. — In *Philothermus*: DAJOZ 1979: 448.  
*Praslinia peyrierasi* Dajoz, 1974: 117, syn. nov.

## Material examined:

SEYCHELLES ISLANDS: Mahé; "Casse dent" Sentier de Congo Rouge, 10.II.70, J. Beneteau (9, MHNG; 2, SAS); Mahé Centre: Morne Séchellois, forêt endémique, 750 m, 13/17.VII.1972, Miss. zool. belge aux Séchelles — P.L.G. Benoit et J.J. Van Mol (1, MRAC); Silhouette, Mahé, ex. coll. Baker (1, USNM, paratype of *curtulum*).

Note. After examination of a paratype of *Cerylon curtulum* Grouvelle I am thoroughly convinced that this species is the same as *Praslinia peyrierasi* Dajoz which becomes its junior synonym.

## As gen. n.

Gender: masculine.

Type species: *As alae* sp. n.

This genus belongs to the tribe Lapethini, subfamily Ceryloninae by its strongly transverse *Lapethus*-like mesosternum. In general appearance it resembles *Lapethus* (*Lytopeplus*), but differs in not having antennal cavities on the anterior pronotal angles. It occupies a rather isolated position, near the tribe Cerylonini (genera *Praslinia*, *Pathe-lus*).

## Description.

Body short, broadly-oval, dorsal surface glabrous, shiny.

Head: mouth parts as in *Philothermus* Aubé; eyes small, somewhat reduced, coarsely faceted; antennae 11-segmented with large, oval, two-segmented club; antennal groove at lower margin of eyes present.

Pronotum convex, narrowing apically; lateral margins entirely bordered; prosternum with deep foveae near anterior margin (fig. 2); prosternal process broad, parallel-sided in basal two thirds, strongly widened in apical third; procoxal cavities open behind; mesosternum strongly transverse, like in *Lapethus*, smooth; without femoral lines on metasternum.

Elytra without regular rows of punctures, irregularly micropunctured; epipleura complete, narrowing apically; ventrite I without femoral lines.

Legs: femora broad, flattened; tibiae slender, moderately widened apically; tarsi 4-segmented in both sexes.

As *alae* sp. n.

(Figs. 1, 2)

## Description.

Body broadly-oval, dark-brown, antennae, mouth parts and legs reddish-brown.

Head: labrum somewhat elongate, emarginate medially; clypeus transverse with anterior margin straight or scarcely emarginate medially, surface flat, impunctate; frons and vertex flat, impunctate; eyes prominent, reduced to 20-25 facets; antennal groove at lower margin of eyes present; antennae as figured (fig. 1).

Pronotum transverse (20: 37), widest at base, strongly, arcuately narrowed apically; anterior margin straight, bordered; anterior angles obtuse, rounded, not prominent; sides narrowly entirely bordered, not explanate; pronotal base unbordered, finely sinuate near the rounded, not prominent posterior angles; dorsal surface finely, sparsely punctured, punctures more than 5 diameters apart, spaces between them with microsculpture.

Scutellum small, triangular, smooth.

Elytra broad, 1.1-1.2 times wider than long, widest about at one third from bases; without regular rows of punctures, practically smooth, micropunctures separated by more than 5 diameters, spaces between them microsculptured.

Ventral side: fig. 2.

Length 1.9-2.1 mm, width 1.1-1.2 mm.

Holotype: RÉUNION, Plaine des Chicots, 21.IV.74, 1850 m (tamisage) Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratypes: RÉUNION, all collected by Y. Gomy in various provinces: Pl. des Chicots, La Petite Plaine, St. Denis, Hts de Ste Rose, St. Philippe, Rte du Maïdo, St. Joseph, Cilaos Grand Matarum, Plaine de Makes 1400 m, Takamaka, Ste Gilles les Bains, ND de la Paix 1500 m, Piste forestière de la Plaine d'Affouches, gîte forestier de Bebour, Mare Longue 450 m, (226, MHNG; 13, SAS).

### **Illerylon gen. n.**

Gender: masculine.

Type species: *Illerylon besucheti* sp. n.

This genus belongs also to the tribe Lapethini, and is very similar to *As* gen. n. described above, but differs in having following characters: pronotum densely and coarsely punctured; elytra with distinct rows of punctures; prosternum, mesosternum and lateral portions of metasternum densely and coarsely punctured (smooth in *As*).

### **Illerylon besucheti sp. n.**

(Figs. 3, 4)

I devote this interesting species to Dr. Claude Besuchet, Natural History Museum in Geneva.

### **Description.**

Body broadly-oval, slightly convex; dorsal surface dark-brown, legs and antennae reddish-brown.

Head: anterior clypeal margin straight or rounded medially, surface convex, finely punctured; vertex somewhat convex, punctured, punctures round, a little larger than those on clypeus, separated by one diameter; eyes fully developed, prominent, normally faceted; antennae 11-segmented as figured (fig. 3).

<sup>1</sup> Pronotum 1.9-2 times as wide as long, widest at base, sides regular arcuate, strongly converging forwards; anterior margin emarginate medially, unbordered; anterior angles rounded, not prominent, posterior ones nearly rectangular; dorsal surface and borders coarsely punctured, punctures rounded, separated by less than one diameter.

Scutellum small, triangular, smooth.

Elytra broad, oval, nearly 1.15 times longer than their maximum combined width which is at one third behind the bases, elytra narrowing apically and each separately

rounded at apex; surface punctured as pronotum, punctures rounded, rather irregularly disposed; epipleura complete, strongly narrowed apically, not punctate.

Ventral side: prosternum as fig. 4; mesosternum transverse, punctured as prosternum; metasternum punctured laterally and anteriorly, without femoral lines; ventrites with 2-3 rows of punctures.

Legs: tibiae expanded apically (more in male than in female); tarsi 4-segmented in both sexes.

Length 1.9-2.3 mm, width 1.0-1.2 mm.

Holotype: MAURITIUS, Macabe Forest, 19.I.71, tamisage tronc, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratypes: with same date as holotype (1, MHNG); Mont Cocotte, 19.I.1970, tronc mort, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG; 1, SAS); Mt. Le Pouce, 700 m, 20.XII.74, Schauenberg (3, MHNG; 1 SAS).

### *Ilerylon mauritianum* sp. n.

(Fig. 5)

Similar to *I. besucheti* described above, but differs in following respects: pronotum with punctures strongly elongated (rounded in *besucheti*); elytra with distinct rows of punctures (in *besucheti* rather irregular and more coarsely punctured).

#### Description.

Body oval, convex; dorsal surface reddish-brown, shiny, glabrous.

Head: anterior clypeal margin rounded, surface flat, sparsely punctured; frons and vertex flat, densely punctured, punctures larger than on clypeus, 1-1.5 diameter apart; antennae as figured (fig. 5); eyes fully developed, less prominent than in *besucheti*.

Pronotum transverse (20: 37), widest at base, narrowing apically; lateral margins entirely and narrowly bordered; dorsal surface with strongly elongated punctures, separated by 2-3 diameters, spaces between them with distinct, irregular microsculpture; pronotal base with a row of round punctures.

Elytra broadly-oval, 1.1-1.3 times as long as their maximum width, which is at one third from bases; each elytron with 8-9 rows of punctures, which are more distinct in male than in female, intervals impunctate.

Ventral side as in *besucheti*.

Legs: protibia in male expanded apically, in female only evenly widened at apex; tarsi 4-segmented.

Length 1.7 mm, width 0.9 mm.

Holotype: MAURITIUS, Macabe Forest, 19.I.71, tamisage tronc, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

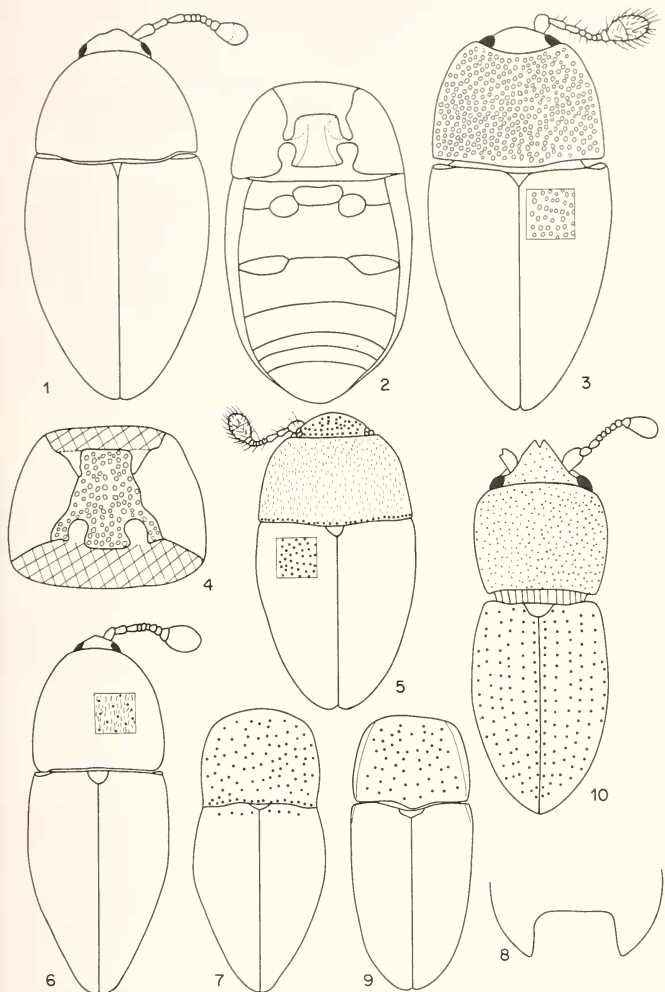
Paratypes: with same data as holotype (16, MHNG); Rivière Patate, 19.I.71, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Mont Cocotte, 600 m, 19.I.70 and 29.I.71, Y. Gomy (9, MHNG; 4, SAS); Mare aux Vacoas, 24.I.66, arbre des voyageurs, Y. Gomy (3, MHNG; 1, SAS); Bel Ombre, 15.V.70, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG; 1, SAS).

### *Pathelus borbonicus* Dajoz

*Pathelus borbonicus* Dajoz, 1974: 28, figs. 26-29.

#### Material examined.

RÉUNION: without others data (1, MHNG); Route du Maïdo 1600 m, 18.X.69, tamisage, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Plaine des Makes, 15.XI.70, tamisage troncs et humus,



FIGS. 1-10.

1-2: *As alae* gen., sp. n., 1: dorsal view; 2: ventral view; 3-4: *Illerylon besucheti* gen., sp. n., 3: dorsal view; 4: prosternum; 5: *Illerylon mauritianum* sp. n., dorsal view; 6: *Pathelus loebli* sp. n., dorsal view; 7-8: *Pathelus mauritianus* sp. n., 7: pronotum and elytra; 8: clypeus (male); 9: *Philothermus gomyi* sp. n., pronotum and elytra; 10: *Philothermopsis (P.) addendus* sp. n., dorsal side (male).

Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Plaine des Chicots 21.IV.73, 1500 m, tamisage, Y. Gomy (2, MHNG; 2, SAS). Plaine des Cafres, ND de la Paix, 4.XI.65, tamisage, Y. Gomy (2, MHNG).

Note. The antennal club seems to be one-segmented in *Pathelus*, not composed by two segments.

***Pathelus loebli* sp. n.**

(Fig. 6)

I name this species after my colleague Dr. Ivan Löbl who kindly enabled me to study the extensive and highly interesting material of Cerylonidae deposited in the Geneva Museum.

This species is similar to *P. borbonicus* Dajoz in having distinct microsculpture between the pronotal punctures, and in having small eyes reduced to 10-15 facets. It may be separated from *borbonicus* by its pronotum widest at base and strongly narrowed apically (in *borbonicus* the pronotum is widest at one third from anterior margin and more narrowed basally than apically).

**Description.**

Body oval, convex, shiny, dark-brown.

Head: anterior clypeal margin straight, surface flat, impunctate; frons and vertex impunctate, slightly convex; eyes reduced, prominent; antennal groove at lower margin of eyes present; antennae 10-segmented with oval club which is as long as antennal segments VI-IX together.

Pronotum transverse (25: 35), strongly convex, widest at base, strongly narrowing apically; anterior margin practically straight, unbordered; anterior angles obtuse, rounded, not prominent; lateral margins entirely, finely bordered, not explanate; pronotal base straight, unbordered; posterior angles nearly rectangular, not prominent; dorsale surface finely and sparsely punctured, punctures small, more than 5 diameters apart, spaces between them microsculptured.

Scutellum transverse, triangular, smooth.

Elytra broadly-oval (45: 40), strongly convex, slightly narrowed apically; each elytron smooth, only finely microsculptured.

Ventral side: prosternum punctured laterally, smooth in the middle; prosternal process parallel-sided, flat, rounded apically, smooth; mesosternum elongate, concave, carinate anteriorly; metasternum and ventrites smooth.

Legs: tibiae expanded apically; tarsi 4-segmented.

Length 1.9 mm, width 0.9 mm.

Holotype (sex undetermined): RÉUNION, Pl. des Cafres, N.D. de la Paix, 9.I.72, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

***Pathelus mauritanus* sp. n.**

(Figs 7, 8)

*P. mauritanus* differs from all others *Pathelus* in having smooth spaces between the pronotal punctures, and in having eyes reduced to 4, 5 facets.

## Description.

Body reddish-brown, convex, shiny.

Head: clypeus with anterior margin deeply emarginate medially, as figured (fig. 8), surface strongly convex, especially apically, impunctate, shiny; frons and vertex flat, impunctate; eyes strongly reduced to 4, 5 facets, prominent; antennal groove at lower margin of eyes present but shallow; antennae as in *loebli* sp. n.

Pronotum slightly transverse (21: 27), parallel-sided in basal two thirds, then narrowed apically; anterior margin straight, unbordered; anterior angles broadly rounded, not prominent, posterior ones rectangular; lateral margins entirely bordered; pronotal base straight, unbordered; dorsal surface sparsely but distinctly punctured, punctures round, 3-4 diameters apart, spaces between them smooth, shiny, microsculpture sometimes visible.

Scutellum transverse, triangular, smooth.

Elytra broadly-oval (30: 25), widest at one third from bases; without rows of punctures, surface irregularly, sparsely punctured, punctures smaller than those on pronotum.

Ventral side: prosternum punctured laterally and at anterior margin; prosternal process long, parallel-sided, flat, surface with rows of punctures near lateral margins; mesosternum elongate, carinate anteriorly, concave; metasternum and ventrites smooth.

Legs: as in *loebli*.

Length 1.3 mm, width 0.6 mm.

Holotype: MAURITIUS, Mont Cocotte, 600 m, 29.I.71, tamisage, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratypes: with same data as holotype (13, MHNG; 2, SAS); Rivière Patate, 19.I.71, tamisage tronc. Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Bel Ombre, 30.I.66, bouse de vache, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Plaine Champagne, 600 m, 10.I.71, tamisage, Y. Gomy, (1, MHNG; 1, SAS).

***Philothermus gomyi* sp. n.**

(Fig. 9)

Named after Mr. Y. Gomy who collected most of the mentioned species.

*P. gomyi* is the first Old World member of the *glabriculus* group.

## Description.

Body elongate, parallel-sided, moderately convex; dorsal surface glabrous, shiny, reddish-brown.

Head: anterior clypeal margin straight, surface convex, punctured, setigerous punctures separated by 1-2 diameters; frons and vertex convex, larger than clypeus punctured; eyes fully developed, normally faceted; antennae 11-segmented with oval club indistinctly divided.

Pronotum transverse (28: 34); anterior margin straight, unbordered; anterior angles rounded, posterior ones nearly rectangular; lateral margins slightly arcuate, entirely and widely bordered, sides somewhat explanate; pronotal base shallowly emarginate besides scutellum, unbordered; dorsal surface sparsely punctured, round punctures separated by 2-4 diameters, spaces between them smooth.

Scutellum strongly transverse, triangular, smooth.

Elytra slightly longer than wide (40: 35), widest at one third from bases; each elytron with 6 fully developed rows of punctures, striae not grooved; striae punctures separated longitudinally by 2-3 diameters, punctures absent apically; intervals flat, impunctate.

Ventral side: prosternal process parallel-sided, sparsely punctured; procoxal cavities open behind; sternum and ventrites smooth.

Length 1.9-2.1 mm, width 0.8-0.9 mm.

Holotype: MAURITIUS, Macabe, 11.IV.70, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratypes: with same data as holotype (1, MHNG); Magenta, 2.IV.70, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG; 1, SAS); Bel Ombre, 12.IV.70, Y. Gomy (3, MHNG; 1, SAS); SEYCHELLES Is., Mahé, 17.I.71, Anse Marie Louise, s/écorses, N° 3, J. Beneteau (1, MHNG; 1, SAS).

***Philothermopsis (Pseudophilothermus) addendus* sp. n.**

(Fig. 10)

The strongly convex clypeus in male is so far unique in this subgenus.

Description of male.

Head: anterior clypeal margin narrowly, deeply emarginate in the middle, surface strongly convex, especially near anterior margin (fig. 10); frons and vertex flat, sparsely punctured; eyes fully developed, not prominent, flat; antennae 10-segmented, segment II 2 times as long as wide, III as long as II, segments IV-VI slightly longer than wide, VII-IX as long as wide or slightly transverse, segment X forming a large club as long as segments VI-IX together.

Pronotum transverse (25: 30), widest at one third from anterior margin; anterior margin straight, unbordered; anterior angles rounded, not prominent; lateral margins arcuate, more converging backwards than forwards, entirely and finely bordered; dorsal surface and borders coarsely punctured, punctures a little larger than those on vertex and 2-3 diameters apart, spaces between them shiny, smooth.

Scutellum transverse, triangular, smooth.

Elytra nearly 1.4 times as long as wide, widest at one third from bases; elytron with 5 fully developed rows of punctures, the 6th row reduced to 4-6 punctures, spaces between elytral punctures shiny, smooth; intervals flat, impunctate.

Ventral side: prosternal process parallel-sided, rounded apically, surface flat, impunctate; mesosternum elongate, depressed medially, impunctate; metasternum and ventrite I punctured laterally, without femoral lines.

Female: similar to male but clypeus only slightly emarginate medially and flat; antennal segment III much smaller than IV, similar as the following ones, about as long as wide.

Length 2.1 mm, width 0.8-0.9 mm.

Holotype male: COMORO ISLANDS, Mayotte Mamoutzou, 13.VIII.69, s/écorses, à la lumière, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratype female: same data as holotype (MHNG).

***Philothermopsis (Pseudophilothermus) mauritanus* (Grouv.) comb. n.**

*Cerylon mauritanum* Grouvelle, 1899: 168.

Note. The procoxal cavities are open behind; prosternal process is parallel-sided, rounded apically; antennae are 10-segmented with one segmented club. This species belongs to the genus *Philothermopsis* (subg. *Pseudophilothermus* Dajoz).



Material examined.

MAURITIUS (59, MHNG; 9 SAS): Mt. Cocotte, tamisage troncs morts, s/écorses; Macabe Forest, s/écorses, tamisage tronc mort; Magenta, Mt. Le Pouce, 700 and 900 m; La Flora, savanne, s/écorses; Mare aux Vacoas; Trou aux Biches, sous les algues. All leg. Y. Gomy.

RÉUNION (136, MHNG; 11 SAS): Mare Longue; Cilaos, Grand Matarum; s/écorses de pin, tamisage; Brulé de Mare Longue, tamisage tronc; Hell Bourg, s/écorses; Plaine des Makes; Ht de Ste Rose, tamisage; St. Denis, 1120 m, s/écorses, tronc pourri; St. Philippe, tamisage souche, tronc vacoas; Piste forestière de la Plaine d'Affouches, 1400 m, s/feuilles; Cirque de Salazie, Piton Marmite, 1800 m, tamisage tronc; Takamaka, s/écorses, tamisage souche très humide; La Petite Plaine, tronc pourri. All leg. Y. Gomy.

### **Euxestus phalacroïdes** Woll.

*Euxestus phalacroïdes* Wollaston, 1877: 223.

*Euxestus quadricolor* Emden, 1928: 97, **syn. n.**

Material examined.

RÉUNION (87, MHNG; 10, SAS): St. Philippe; St. Denis; St. Joseph; St. André; Ste Thérèse, Pichette; Takamaka; St. Paul; Etang Salé; La Salive les Bains; Plaine des Grègues. All leg. Y. Gomy.

COMORES (14, MHNG; 3, SAS); MADAGASCAR (1, SMD — holotype of *quadricolor*; 6, MHNG; 2, SAS).

### **Euxestus globosus gomyi** subsp. n.

This subspecies differs from the nominative subspecies known from Seychelles in having more or less regular rows of punctures on the elytra (as in *phalacroïdes*), and by densely punctured pronotum. From *phalacroïdes* it may be distinguished by strongly flattened femora and apically widened protibiae.

Length 2.3-2.5 mm, width 1.2-1.4 mm.

Holotype: MAURITIUS, Flic-en-Flac, 28.I.71, Y. Gomy (MHNG).

Paratypes: with same data as holotype (12, MHNG; 10, SAS); same data, collected 15.I.71 (2, MHNG); same data, collected 15.VI.66 (2, MHNG); Pointe au Sable, 15.I.71, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Albion, 21.I.70, s/écorses, Y. Gomy (1, MHNG); Cap Malheureux, 30.XII.74, P. Schauenberg (1, MHNG).

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